

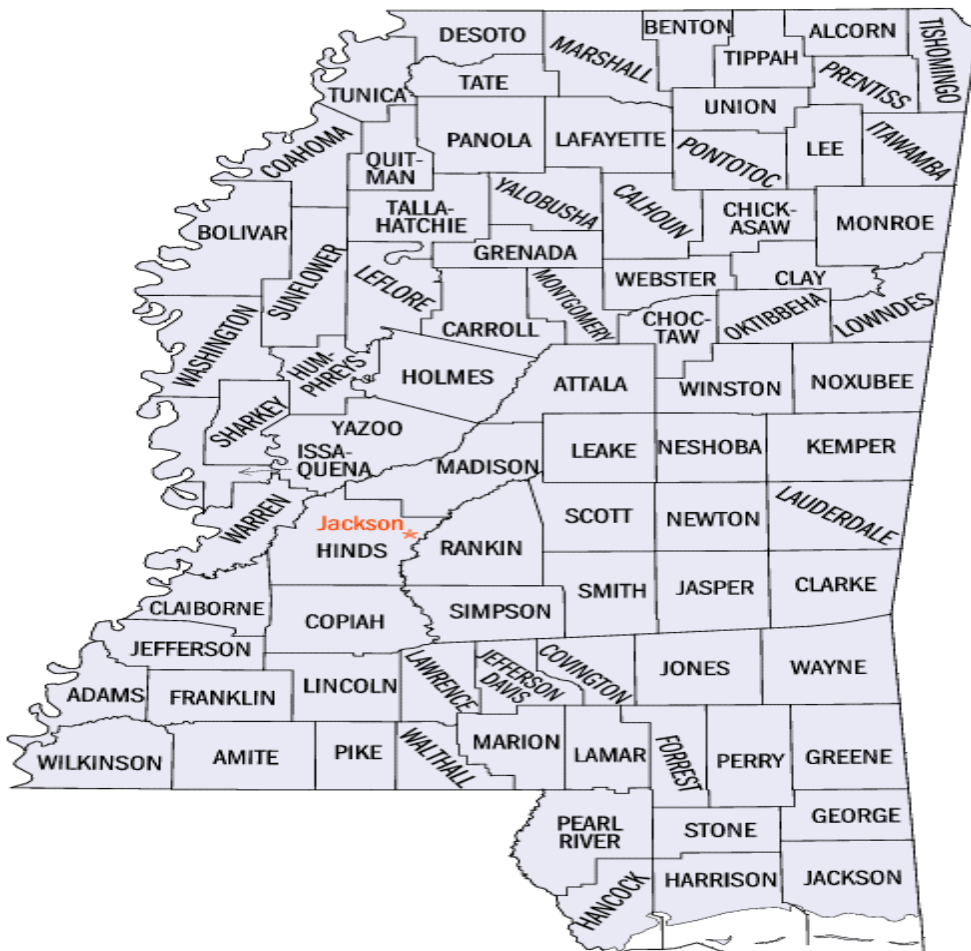
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of Mississippi

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

May 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

# **Mississippi**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

## **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 2,871,782 (2002 estimate); 2,844,658 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 60.7% white; 36.2% black/African American; 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.0% other; 0.6% two or more races; 1.4% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

## **Politics**

- Governor: Ronnie Musgrove<sup>2</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Amy Tuck<sup>3</sup>
- Attorney General: Mike Moore<sup>4</sup>
- Secretary of State: Eric Clark<sup>5</sup>
- Senate Members: Thad Cochran (R), Trent Lott (R)<sup>6</sup>
- House Members: Roger Wicker (R), Bennie Thompson (D), Charles Pickering (R), Gene Taylor (D)<sup>7</sup>
- Capital: Jackson<sup>8</sup>

## **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>9</sup>  
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA consists of areas in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. The area's central location makes it attractive for traffickers with bases of operations on either the East or West Coast of the United States. The following Mississippi counties fall within the Gulf Coast HIDTA area of responsibility: Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lafayette, Madison, and Rankin.

## **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Mississippi:<sup>10</sup>
  - FY 2002: no Mississippi grantees
  - FY 2001:
    - \$99,793 to Gateway MAP (Multi-disciplinary Assessment Planning) Team, Yazoo City
    - \$99,669 to Jackson County Children's Services Coalition, Gautier
    - \$100,000 to Partnership for a Healthy Scott County, Forest
    - \$100,000 to West Jackson Community Development Corporation, Jackson
  - FY 1998-FY 2000: no Mississippi grantees
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>11</sup>  
Five sites in Mississippi have been officially recognized as Federal Weed and Seed sites: Greenville (3 sites), Jackson, and Tupelo.
- FY 2001/2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for Mississippi:<sup>12</sup>
  - Formula Funding: \$18,750,586
    - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$14,067,607

- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$3,998,079
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
- Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$384,900
- Discretionary Funding: \$7,661,255
  - Mental Health - \$2,170,000
  - Substance Prevention - \$4,991,813
  - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$499,442
- Total Mental Health Funds: \$6,852,979
- Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$19,558,862
- Total Funds for Mississippi: \$26,411,841
- FY 2003 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Mississippi: \$5,360,952<sup>13</sup>
- There were no Mississippi recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.<sup>14</sup>
- FY 1996-2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Mississippi:
  - FY 1996: \$338,497<sup>15</sup>
  - FY 1997: \$391,669<sup>16</sup>
  - FY 1998: \$848,561<sup>17</sup>
  - FY 1999: \$851,871<sup>18</sup>
  - FY 2000: \$899,221<sup>19</sup>
  - FY 2001: \$900,348<sup>20</sup>
  - FY 2002: \$1,082,054<sup>21</sup>
  - FY 2003: \$1,037,751<sup>22</sup>
- FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant recipient in Mississippi:<sup>23</sup>
  - \$222,222 to Pearl River County Sheriff's Department
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipient in Mississippi:<sup>24</sup>
  - \$145,000 to Westwick Apartments, Jackson

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 241 arrests for drug violations in Mississippi.<sup>25</sup>

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Mississippi, 1997-2001

Year	Arrests
1997	243
1998	355
1999	375
2000	446
2001	241

- There were 9,361 drug arrests in Mississippi during 2001.<sup>26</sup>

## Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Mississippi, 2001

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	3	101
Forcible rape	24	155
Robbery	58	428
Aggravated assault	76	1,221
Burglary	543	1,821
Larceny-theft	1,855	7,487
Motor vehicle theft	104	462
Arson	67	373
Drug abuse violations	861	9,361
Driving under the influence	129	9,807

### Drugs

- Cocaine  
Cocaine is the most problematic, high-threat drug for communities and law enforcement in Mississippi. Most of the cocaine found in Mississippi comes through Texas.<sup>27</sup>
- Heroin  
Heroin is currently not a problem drug or drug of choice in Mississippi. The majority of the heroin found in the State is en route to other destinations, usually to large cities in the north and east.<sup>28</sup>
- Methamphetamine  
Methamphetamine has become a popular drug of abuse in Mississippi, particularly among poor to middle-class Caucasians. Small (gram-quantity) “Nazi-method” methamphetamine labs are frequently encountered by law enforcement throughout Mississippi, most frequently in rural communities. The increase in methamphetamine manufacturing is driven by a growing addiction to the drug and by the high profit margins realized from its manufacture. Methamphetamine “ice,” which is usually more than 90% pure and highly addictive, is also found in Mississippi.<sup>29</sup>
- Marijuana  
Marijuana is sold and used by members of all ethnic and socioeconomic groups in Mississippi. The marijuana available in the State is primarily from Mexico, but there is also a large amount of locally-grown marijuana available.<sup>30</sup>
- Club Drugs  
Club drugs are popular in Mississippi among middle-to-upper-class young adult Caucasians. The club drug most frequently mentioned is MDMA (ecstasy), which is used as a party drug at nightclubs and on college campuses.<sup>31</sup>
- Other Drugs  
Individuals from all racial and socioeconomic groups are abusing illicitly diverted prescription drugs. Popular pharmaceuticals that are being abused include the following: OxyContin, Xanax, Valium, Vicodin, Dilaudid, and Lortab.<sup>32</sup>
- According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, nearly 55% of Mississippi citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.<sup>33</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Mississippi, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	8.48%	14.22%	2.98%	5.21%
Past month use of marijuana	5.28	10.67	1.40	3.16
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	3.98	6.06	1.56	2.48
Past year cocaine use	1.06	3.84	1.11	1.49
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	45.66	37.99	59.29	54.70

- According to 2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1.32% of Mississippi citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.<sup>34</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Dependence, Mississippi, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	1.80%	3.75%	0.78%	1.32%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	3.26	6.02	0.98	1.95
Alcohol dependence	1.69	4.99	2.97	3.11
Alcohol dependence or abuse	4.63	10.50	4.71	5.52
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	6.89	13.81	5.62	6.92

**Treatment**

- In 2001, there were 10,065 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Mississippi.<sup>35</sup> There were 9,574 treatment admissions in 2000.<sup>36</sup> During 1999, there were 8,790 admissions to treatment in Mississippi.<sup>37</sup>

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Mississippi, 1999-2001

Drug Type	1999		2000		2001	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,354	26.8%	2,556	26.7%	2,321	23.1%
Alc. w/ second. drug	1,926	21.9	1,850	19.3	1,867	18.5
Cocaine – smoked	1,954	22.2	1,905	19.9	1,760	17.5
Cocaine – other route	382	4.3	357	3.7	425	4.2
Marijuana	1,318	15.0	1,634	17.1	2,003	19.9
Heroin	54	0.6	80	0.8	65	0.6
Other opiates	202	2.3	313	3.3	471	4.7
PCP	6	0.1	3	0.0	--	0.0
Hallucinogens	19	0.2	19	0.2	22	0.2
Amphetamines	182	2.1	310	3.2	522	5.2
Other stimulants	9	0.1	6	0.1	6	0.1
Tranquilizers	97	1.1	99	1.0	114	1.1
Sedatives	25	0.3	25	0.3	32	0.3
Inhalants	12	0.1	11	0.1	6	0.1
Other/none specified	250	2.8	406	4.2	451	4.5
Total	8,790	100.0	9,574	100.0	10,065	100.0

## Juveniles

- Approximately 38% of Mississippi high school students surveyed in 2001 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.<sup>38</sup>

Percent of High School Students Using Drugs, Mississippi, 2001

Drug & Frequency	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	33.8%	41.2%	37.5%
Current marijuana use	14.9	19.9	17.4
Lifetime cocaine use	5.1	4.4	4.7
Current cocaine use	1.8	2.8	2.3
Lifetime inhalant use	10.4	9.5	9.9
Current inhalant use	3.0	3.8	3.4
Lifetime heroin use	1.4	3.3	2.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	6.1	5.0	5.5
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.1	5.8	4.4
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.8	2.7	1.8
Tried marijuana before age 13	7.1	12.1	9.5

## Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 8,255 full-time law enforcement employees in Mississippi (5,094 officers and 3,161 civilians).<sup>39</sup>
- DEA Mobile Enforcement Teams (MET)<sup>40</sup>  
Developed in 1995 in response to the overwhelming problem of drug-related violent crime in towns and cities across the nation, the MET program serves as a cooperative program between DEA and its State and local law enforcement counterparts. Seven MET deployments in Mississippi have lead to 136 arrests: Jackson (2 deployments), Hancock County, Greenville, Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and Grenada.

## Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>41</sup>  
On January 2003, there were fourteen drug courts either in already in existence or being planned in Mississippi. One drug court has been in existence for over two years, six were recently implemented, and seven were being planned.
- During FY 2001, 42% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Mississippi were charged with drug offenses. Crack cocaine was involved in 107 (44.6%) of the drug offenses.<sup>42</sup>

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Mississippi, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Crack cocaine	107	44.6%
Marijuana	53	22.1
Methamphetamine	42	17.5
Powder cocaine	32	13.3
Heroin	0	0.0
Other	6	2.5

### Trafficking and Seizures

- Mississippi is a major transshipment point for bulk quantities of illegal drugs from the Southwest Border to areas north and east.<sup>43</sup>
- Mississippi's central location makes it ideal for traffickers from Detroit, Chicago, Miami, and elsewhere to meet wholesale suppliers and purchase drugs.<sup>44</sup>
- North Mississippi receives much of its supply of illegal drugs from the Memphis, Tennessee area.<sup>45</sup>
- Loads of marijuana, destined for large cities in the north and east, are often seized on Mississippi Interstate Highways 10, 20, 55 and 59.<sup>46</sup>
- Street gangs in Mississippi, such as the "Vice Lords," the "Wood Street Players," and the "Four Corner Hustlers," are heavily involved in the trafficking and distribution of cocaine, primarily crack cocaine.<sup>47</sup>
- More than 7,000 kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in Mississippi during 2002.<sup>48</sup>

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Mississippi, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kgs.)
Cocaine	7,169.6
Heroin	0
Methamphetamine	4.4
Marijuana	294.4

- There were 443 methamphetamine laboratories seized by the DEA and State and local authorities in Mississippi during 2002.<sup>49</sup>

Number of Labs Seized, Mississippi, 1996-2002

Year	Labs Seized
1996	1
1997	0
1998	14
1999	57
2000	115
2001	201
2002	443

- During 2001, more than 10,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in Mississippi.<sup>50</sup>

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Mississippi, 2001

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Eradicated</u>	<u>Cultivated</u>	<u>Grows</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Cultivated</u>
<u>Plots</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Seized</u>	<u>Eradicated</u>	<u>Plants</u>
<u>Eradicated</u>	<u>Eradicated</u>			<u>Eradicated</u>
163	10,080	6	30	10,110

- Preliminary estimates indicate that from October 1, 2001 to May 16, 2002, U.S. currency valued at \$2,455,976 was seized in Mississippi through highway interdiction stops. The majority of this cash was a result of drug sales in the east and was being transported to recipients in Texas and Mexico.<sup>51</sup>

### Corrections

- On May 1, 2003, more than 7,000 inmates within the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) had committed drug offenses.<sup>52</sup>

Number of MDOC Inmates, by Offense, May 1, 2003

Offense	Number	% of Total
Drug	7,331	31.45%
Property	7,722	33.13
Violent	8,258	35.43
Total	23,311	100.0

- There were 5,470 drug offenders on probation in Mississippi on May 1, 2003.<sup>53</sup>

Number of MDOC Probationers, by Offense, May 1, 2003

Offense	Number	% of Total
Drug	5,470	32.13%
Property	9,520	55.91
Violent	2,037	11.96
Total	17,027	100.0

- On May 1, 2003, there were 1,770 Mississippi parolees. Approximately 34% of those on parole committed drug offenses.<sup>54</sup>
- The MDOC inmate population was profiled on September 16, 2000, to determine the specific crimes of incarceration and the frequency of each. Distribution of cocaine ranked highest at 10.46% of the total inmate population.<sup>55</sup>

MDOC Drug Offenders, by Offense Type, September 2000

Type of Offense	Number of Inmates	% of Total Population
Cocaine possession	1,164	5.80%
Marijuana possession	360	1.79
Delivery of a controlled substance	546	2.72
Possession of a controlled substance	680	3.39
Marijuana production	24	0.11
Marijuana distribution	202	1.00
Cocaine distribution	2,098	10.46
Sale of a controlled substance	286	1.42
Production of a controlled substance	33	0.16
Total drug offenses	5,393	26.91



## Sources

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- <sup>2</sup> Mississippi Governor Web site: <http://www.governor.state.ms.us/>
- <sup>3</sup> Mississippi Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.ls.state.ms.us/ltgov/index.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Mississippi Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/>
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- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>
- <sup>8</sup> State of Mississippi Web site: <http://www.ms.gov/>
- <sup>9</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_gulf.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_gulf.html)
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- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>33</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Volume II. Supplementary Technical Appendices*, October 2002: [http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/2kState/PDF/Vol2/OOSAERptVol2\\_W.pdf](http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/2kState/PDF/Vol2/OOSAERptVol2_W.pdf)
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